

Pittsburgh Press 11/22/76
Went To Mexico

Oswald Trip Told To Panel

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Responding to a congressional subpoena, former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officer David Phillips told a closed session of the House Committee on Assassinations yesterday about Lee Harvey Oswald's Soviet and Cuban contacts in Mexico City.

After almost four hours of testimony, Phillips told reporters he had given the committee "what I knew" about the trip Oswald made to Mexico eight weeks before President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.

Phillips was involved in CIA surveillance of the Cuban embassy at the time Oswald visited it. He refused, however, to disclose what he had told the committee about Kennedy's accused assassin.

"I told the select committee what I knew about the visit to Mexico City of Lee Harvey Oswald," he said. "It was an executive session. Under the circumstances I believe it would be wrong to say what I said and I know it would be illegal."

In response to a reporter's questions, Phillips said he had not pleaded the Fifth Amendment at any time. He said he was advised to be available in case he had to be recalled.

The Washington Post reported Friday the CIA had intercepted and recorded a phone call Oswald made from the Cuban to the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City during his visit. But the Post said the intelligence agency furnished only part of the transcript to the FBI and later to the Warren Commission which investigated the Kennedy murder.

The Post said the CIA deleted that portion of the conversation in which Oswald offered "information" of an unspecified nature to the Soviets in return for paid passage to the Soviet Union.